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### Amson Mohr

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Biographical Research

Amson Mohr

History 300

Instructor

Dr. Roger Warlick

by

Richard J. Landolt Jr.

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## Biographical Abstract

Amson (Anson) Mohr

Born: Approximately 1848.

Died: Approximately April 1919.

Wife: Carrie Epstein Mohr

Sons: Ivan Mohr

Melvin Amson Mohr

Bertram Mohr

Amson Mohr was born in Bavaria about 1848 and immigrated to the United States arriving in Savannah prior to 1866. He became a partner in Lippman, Bro., & Co., a wholesale and retail dry goods store. Later he was a partner in Oppenheimer, Mohr & Co. and then in the Mohr Bro. Co. Amson was one of the incorporating members of the Liberty Mfg. Co. and the American Mfg. Co. He was a founding member and director of the Germania Bank. He married Miss Carrie Epstein of St. Louis, Mo. They had three sons; Ivan, Melvin and Bertram. Amson died about 1919.

Amson Mohr was born in Bavaria in approximately 1848.<sup>1</sup> He immigrated to the United States and arrived in Savannah prior to 1866. In 1866 he was a co-partner in the firm of Lippman, Bro. & Co.<sup>2</sup> This firm was a retail and wholesale dry goods store. He evidently soon left the company for he is listed in the 1867 City Directory as a barkeeper residing at the corner of Bryon and Montgomery Streets. By 1871 he has joined with his brother Lazarus and Mr. K. M. Oppenheimer to form the Oppenheimer, Mohr & Co.<sup>3</sup> Mr K. M. Oppenheimer sold out his interests in the store to Amson and Lazarus in 1872. On July 9, 1872 Amson and Lazarus formed<sup>4</sup> the Mohr Bro. Co.

The Mohr Bro. Co. was at various times a retail or wholesale store or both. It dealt in various dry good products. The store sold such items as calico cloth, bleached shirting, embroideries,<sup>5</sup> linen collars and cuffs, gloves, laces and parasols. These items coincide with the definition of a dry good store as found in The Century Dictionary, an Encyclopedic Lexicon of the English Language<sup>6</sup> and The New English Dictionary on Historical Principles.

In 1890 Amson was an incorporating member of the Liberty Mfg. Co. It was a commission and brokerage business which dealt in real estate and personal property. It loaned and borrowed money on notes, bonds and mortgages. The company had interests in railroads, bridges and building concerns. It also sought to operate mines,<sup>7</sup> brick yards, quarries, potteries and industries of similar natures.

Through the Liberty Mfg. Co. Amson was able to invest in several

gold and silver mines, Coca Cola, several banks and companies. Upon his death the investments added to his other holdings were valued in excess of \$99,000.00.

Amson and Lazarus created and became the proprietors of the American Mfg. Co. This was done in 1897. The company specialized in the manufacture of pants.

During 1890 Amson had worked with several other businessmen and helped organize the Germania Bank. During the following years of the 1890's and the 1900's he was one of the bank's directors. In 1903 he transferred his interest in Mohr Bro. Co. over to Lazarus. The business then changed names to L. Mohr & Sons, Co. Amson became the renting agent and a full-time director for the Germania Bank. In 1918 the bank changed its name to Liberty Bank and Trust due to the war which was being conducted in Europe.

Amson married Miss Carrie Epstein. Carrie was born in St. Louis, Mo. March 1, 1860. Her parents, Joseph and Henrietta Epstein, were from Germany. Amson and Carrie had three sons. They were Ivan, Melvin and Bertram.

Ivan Mohr was born July 2, 1886 and died January 20, 1904. He was buried at Laurel Grove Cemetery in Savannah. However, the location of his grave has been lost.

Melvin Amson Mohr was born October 1, 1888 in St. Louis, Mo. He became a member of the Masons and was in the Clinton Lodge No. 54 in 1915. He moved to St. Louis in about 1933.

Bertram Mohr was born November 20, 1894. He also moved to St. Louis. He is currently listed as a director of the Trust Company Bank which was formerly Germaniabank and Liberty Bank and Trust.

Amson was active in several organizations in Savannah. He held offices of Recording Secretary and Vice-President in the International Order of Bnai Brith, Jacob Lodge No. 76.<sup>19</sup> In 1871 he became a Mason in the Clinton Lodge No. 54.<sup>20</sup> He was elected as a member of the Georgia Historical Society in 1877.<sup>21</sup>

Amson Mohr died in 1919. His death date was not found on his will. Nor was it found listed in the obituary column of the Savannah Morning Press. There is not a death certificate registered with the Chatham County Health Department. The Record of Deaths at Mickve Israel does not record his death, or burial. Examination of various cemetery records also show no listing of his burial. Since his wife and one son were born in St. Louis, it is possible that his body was transported to and buried in St. Louis.

## Endnotes

1. Birthplace taken from 1870 US Census Population Schedule. Birthdate taken from same source by subtracting age given on the census from the year census was taken.  $1870 - 22 = 1848$ .
2. Savannah Daily Herald; January 25, 1866.
3. 1871 City Directory
4. Savannah Morning News; July 9, 1872: 2/6
5. SMN; May 6, 1874: 3/7-8
6. The Century Dictionary, an Encyclopedic Lexicon of the English Language. Copyright 1911, Vol. 3, page 1785.  
A New English Dictionary on Historical Principles. Oxford at the Clarendon Press. Copyright 1897, Vol 3 part 1, page 695
7. SMN; October 19, 1890: 7/1-2
8. Will of Amson Mohr, No. 1266, Court of Ordinary, Chatham County.
9. 1897 City Directory
10. SMN; January 22, 1890: 8/1
11. 1903 City Directory
12. 1907 City Directory
13. The First Eighty-five Years. By Hugh H. Grady and Andrew P. Calhoun.
14. Will No. 1266.
15. Laurel Grove Savannah, Georgia. General Index to Keeper's Record Book. Vol. 2, G-M; Georgia Historical Society.
16. Mr. Sam Shankman, Secretary for The Clinton Lodge No. 54. (Masons)
17. Record of Births. Hebrew Congregation, Mickve Israel Temple.
18. Directorship information available from Trust Company Bank. Bertram Mohr can be contacted through his lawyer's firm of Anderson, Gibbert, Woffert, & Co., Attn. Mr. Woffert, 705 Olive St., St. Louis, Mo. 63101.
19. SMN; January 9, 1872: 3/1 and December 23, 1873: 3/3

20. Mr. Sam Shenkman, Secretary, Clinton Lodge No. 54.
21. SMN; July 3, 1877: 373



## Bibliography

1. General Index; Wills, Estates, Administration, Etc.; Chatham County, Ga. Vol. 2, 1-2
2. 1867-1919 City Directories. Georgia Historical Society and Court of Ordinary, Chatham County, Ga.
3. 1870 Census Population Schedules, City of Savannah, Ga. Box C-6 Roll 141 Page 25 House No. 127 Family No. 130. Line 36 and 37; Georgia Historical Society.
4. Will No. 1266 Court of Ordinary, Chatham County, Ga.
5. Record of Births; Hebrew Congregation, Mickve Israel Temple.
6. Laurel Grove, Savannah, Ga. General Index to Keeper's Record Books; Vol. 2, G-M; Georgia Historical Society.
7. First Eighty-five Years, The. By Hugh H. Grady and Andrew P. Cainoun, Trust Company Bank.

